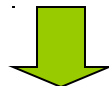


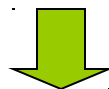


The Basic Absentee Voting Process

Step 1—Citizen completes and mails the Federal Post Card Application Form (SF-76)



Step 2—Local Election Official approves Registration request or Requests further information



Step 3—Local Election Official mails absentee ballot*



Step 4—Citizen votes and mails the absentee ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines

*In order to receive an absentee ballot in a timely manner, it is imperative for citizens to keep their local election official informed of address changes

Top-Ten Steps to Get Ballot Counted



1. Start by contacting your Unit/Embassy/Organization Voting Assistance Officer for help in absentee registration and voting.
2. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.fvap.gov for information on the absentee registration and voting process.
3. Ensure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or on-line versions of the FPCA.
4. Make sure your local election official has your current mailing address.
5. Sign and date all election materials.
6. Fulfill your state's witness/notary requirements (if required).
7. Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.
8. Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner – not later than September.
9. VOTE – mail your ballot not later than October 15, 2004.
10. Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your State absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

Top Reasons Federal Post Card Applications Cannot be Processed by Local Election Officials



- **Inadequate or No Legal Voting Residence Address**
- **Inadequate or Illegible Current Mailing Address**
- **Illegible Writing**
- **Applied to Wrong Jurisdiction**
- **Failure to Indicate Party Preference**
- **No Signature**
- **Form Not Completed**
- **Received Too Late**

- **Source: Quadrennial Survey**